

July 1, 2010

Town of East Troy Residents,

I read the article in the East Troy Times about the Tom Kasun property on Beach Road. I do not believe that the Town Board was at fault for removing Tom Kasun from the property. If anyone was at fault it was me. I came to the Town Board Meetings complaining about the Kasun property being a slum area. The Town Chairman advised me that I needed a petition of Town residents in order to clean up the property. I went down Beach Road with the petition, which included the Kasun & Taylor property. I gathered signatures from Town residents and everyone signed the petition, with the exception of three residents that were Taylor friends. I then took the petition to Walworth County and presented it to Attorney Michael Cotter in an attempt to clean up the property.

So in my opinion it was not the Town Board that evicted Tom Kasun from his property, it was the Town residents that presented the Town with a petition to clean up the property. The Town Board and Walworth County had no choice but to raze the property because Tom Kasun would not cooperate with the clean up. The Town and Walworth County gave Tom Kasun more than enough opportunity to work with them on the clean up, but he choose not to.

I attended Town Meetings at all times on this issue and that is on record. Anyone that wants to look at those meetings are able to do so at the Town Hall.

I give my permission to put this letter in the East Troy Times.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Rogers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Rogers
Beach Lane
East Troy, WI

Town history was misrepresented in editorial

In a letter to the editor on June 23, our current town chair John Stoesser continues to make statements that have no basis in fact and are by their very nature inflammatory and outrageous. Due to the length I am allowed to respond, I will be dealing with his first issue.

Mr. Tom Kasun was formerly a resident on Beach Road. Mr. Kasun did indeed build his own home over a period going back to the 1960s. However, during the 40 plus years of construction the building was never completed, no building plans were ever submitted and apparently none ever existed.

Additionally, building permits were never issued; as a result inspection never took place.

This unfortunately resulted in a home being occupied that did not have running water, septic services or an operating heating system beyond scrap wood being burned in a washing machine or storage drum located in the structure.

Mr. Kasun, for lack of a better term, was a collector of other people's junk that, over a period of many years, led to a situation that was a fire and safety hazard for neighbors and emergency service personnel.

Mr. Stoesser indicates that taxes were

the cause of Mr. Kasun's problems. This was not the case.

It was the accumulation of junk and concern about public safety that caused the county to take action on the situation.

Large scale clean ups were performed at this site on two occasions. Because the problem continued to repeat itself, it is the cost for performing this work at taxpayer expense that caused the county to place a lien against this property.

The town was then reimbursed by the county for its costs.

Mr. Stoesser does not seem to be aware of the efforts that the town took to assist Mr. Kasun, which included attempts to secure assistance from the VA, VFW, Salvation Army and Walworth County Social Services.

In all cases these organizations offered assistance, but were refused by Mr. Kasun.

If anyone, including our current town chair, would like to know the long and tragic history of this situation, please contact our town Chief of Police, building inspector, town secretary, department of public works, county corporation council, county social services, fire chief, or past issues of your local newspapers.

Robert Mueller
Former Town of East Troy Chairman

Town Supervisor appeals for honesty

I am responding to Mr. Bret Strong's published remarks that I admonished him from bringing a hired appraiser to last year's Board of Review.

Mr. Strong writes in last week's letter to the editor, "I was astonished to hear Supervisor Montez ask me if I really went and hired my own assessor."

I could not have said what he wrote because I was excused from last year's Board of Review due to illness. The recorded minutes of the BOR would show that I was not available to have said anything to Mr. Strong.

Here is a brief explanation about the Board of Review process:

Under state law, the town assessor's opinion is presumed correct unless factual information provided by the petitioner shows otherwise. The information comes from documentation of recent sales of comparable properties that is usually attested to by a realtor or an appraiser on behalf of the petitioner.

Mr. Strong followed proper procedure by hiring an independent appraiser to support his opinion and the town board respects that right.

The Board of Review cannot override the town assessor's opinion with an arbitrary adjustment.

All of the board members undergo training and certification to state standards to ensure that the Board of Review functions equitably. If a petitioner feels that the review process did not go according to state defined rules, the petitioner has the right to appeal the process through circuit court and the Department of Revenue. If Mr. Strong felt the procedure was flawed, he could have appealed his case.

As for Mr. Strong's other comments, it is Mr. Stoesser and Mr. Strong who have been deceiving the public. They are attempting to discredit Supervisor Klarkowski and me with distorted opinions about local government affairs. In my opinion, they would like to see us removed from office so

they can manipulate town affairs according to a personal agenda of power as Mr. Stoesser has tried throughout this past year.

The truth about local government affairs can usually be found by requesting the information from the town clerk where all town government activities are recorded and are available for public view. A visit to the Town's website may also help you: www.townofeastroy.com.

I have been on the town board for 18 years, served on various town, county and state committees, and have a clean record for promoting honest government. I have no need or desire to deceive the community that I am proud to serve. And if I am guilty of anything, it is for privately and publicly correcting Mr. Stoesser for his gross mismanagement of town affairs.

One example of the chairman's poor handling of his duties can be discerned by the following quote from the Town's auditor representing Baker Tilly, "We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management (town clerk) in performing and completing our audit except that we were unable to obtain all required representations from the town chairman." (See Town webpage for introduction letter by Baker Tilly representative: www.townofeastroy.com/budget/.)

The town auditor's comment illustrates that Mr. Stoesser has misrepresented our town by blocking information that would expose his tricks to disrupt the auditor's evaluation of town operations. Our town government has received excellent ratings during the past two decades, as well as for this past year, in spite of the town chairman's documented meddling to sabotage the town's standing (March 8, 2010 Town Board Meeting).

I hope Mr. Stoesser and Mr. Strong take heed and stop hurting our town with their deceptions. A welcome change would be to restore our local government to the integrity it had before Stoesser took office as board chairman.

*Clayton Montez, MA
Supervisor, Town of East Troy*

Determine your future July 27

Tuesday, July 27 may be the most important local election we have ever participated in. It has the potential to affect all of us in profound ways. At stake is the power of a select few vs. the rights of the Town majority. Essentially, it boils down to perpetuating the "old regime" or supporting better representation of all Town residents. When casting your vote, please consider current events and perhaps forgotten, but never the less significant, past history: our property assessments and decisions that led up to attempts to take land for the "Park Trail"; the destruction of the home of an 80-year-old veteran.

Regarding our property assessments: Why hasn't the "old guard" been willing to let voters decide, at the polling place, about reevaluating their high property assessments? Does the "old guard" think they know what is best for everyone?

Has the governing process reached a point where the general public is not made aware of events until the decision-making is a done deal?

We need to know what factors led to such an aggressive move as attempting to take land from Town residents by eminent domain, causing families to spend huge amounts of money to defend their homes/land.

Why was more than \$110,000 of Town money spent without our knowledge? (The \$110,000 figure was disclosed by the Town clerk at the "Park Trail" forum shortly before the April 2010 election.)

The razing of the Kasun home is another

example. There were a series of systematic decisions that led to the taking of the home from 80-year-old war veteran, Tom Kasun. Mr. Kasun had built his home by hand in the 1960s. Maybe we should all listen to the recording of the Jan. 24, 2007, Special Meeting where the Town Board discusses how they will add any extra costs to Mr. Kasun's tax bill. A prominent Town Supervisor can be heard making humorous comments about this very serious subject. Subsequently, it was the Town's special charges added to his tax bill that caused Mr. Kasun to lose his land also. Were there better options to depleting this man's resources and then condemning his home and land? We need to insure that another Kasun or "Park Trail" never happens again.

As a footnote, some months back, there was an effort to destroy all the Town meeting tape recordings. I've managed to stop the destruction, temporarily. As a result, I had an inventory taken of these recordings. However, I do not have the final authority to prevent this loss of our Town history.

The point of all this is that we need to stay vigilant when it comes to our government. Not a simple task.

On July 27, it will boil down to choosing between the policies of the "old incumbents," or making changes that remove the Town's ability to act unseen.

On July 27, the Town's future will be in your hands.

*John Stoesser
Chairperson, Town of East Troy*

invitation to join us in the East Troy's annual July 4th parade, Sunday July 4. No organization affiliation required. You've already earned your qualification. We meet in the Caremore Car Center/Gus's Drive-in parking lot. We have a tractor/trailer provided by James Bolton Farms.

travel starts getting a bit more difficult after that. Thank you for your service, welcome home and hope to see you there.

*John Kreidler, Commander
VFW Post 7501
East Troy*